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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June 22, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Intermediate and Local School District Superintendents and Public School Academies Administrators

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *aw*

SUBJECT: ARRA - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant – Due June 25, 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides funding for the first time in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). This fund represents an opportunity for schools to work with local units of government to be part of their energy efficiency conservation plan. The Department wanted to make sure you did not miss the opportunity to work with your community on energy conservation.

Michigan was allocated \$76.6 million, with \$52 million going directly to 56 Michigan communities for local energy efficiency and conservation efforts. The U.S. Department of Energy allocations for individual Michigan cities' and counties' block grants are available at [www.michigan.gov/dleg](http://www.michigan.gov/dleg) under "Energy Systems." The application to the U.S. Department of Energy is due June 25, 2009.

Smaller communities will also have an opportunity to apply for a portion of the remaining \$19.6 million of this grant through the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth. These funds will be offered through competitive solicitation to local jurisdictions. Although schools cannot directly apply for these funds, schools can be a significant partner to communities in implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy practices.

You may access information regarding the EECBG or other green initiatives at the U.S. Department of Energy website at [www.eere.energy.gov/recovery](http://www.eere.energy.gov/recovery) and the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth at [www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice). For more information on the competitive grant for small communities, contact the Bureau of Energy Systems, Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth at 517.335.2823 or 517.241.6228.

For additional ARRA information and updates, please go to the U.S. Department of Education's website at [www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery), the State's ARRA website at [www.michigan.gov/recovery](http://www.michigan.gov/recovery) or the Department's website at [www.michigan.gov/mde-recovery](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-recovery).

In concert with this ARRA opportunity, you will also find the new "Green Community Challenge" program of value. Schools can understand and follow many of the same steps in developing green initiatives by reviewing the Michigan Green Communities Challenge and using the tools

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identified in the tool box. This program is highlighted on the Michigan Municipal League website at [http://www.mml.org/resources/educenter/green\\_challenge.html](http://www.mml.org/resources/educenter/green_challenge.html).

Another resource, that a number of our schools have already taken advantage of and still remains available is the state's Rebuild MI Program. Public schools, colleges, and universities among others, can receive a utility bill analysis, walk-through energy audit of up to 10 buildings, a list of energy efficiency upgrades, financing tool kit, and project planning assistance. The contact for this program is Tim Shireman at 517.241.6281.

Lastly, as a result of 2008 PA 295, utility providers will be implementing Energy Optimization Plans. Funding for these programs is expected to be nearly \$393 million. The tasks that these Energy Optimization plans focus on differ slightly between the various providers. Further information on these plans can be found on the Public Service Commission website <http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/> or by contacting your local utility service provider.

All of these programs compliment the existing Michigan School Business Officials "Energy Essentials" program that assists school districts in developing a program that creates energy awareness and strategies that can result in energy savings for the district. The contact is Scott Little at 517.327.2582.

We will continue to evaluate other ARRA tools and resources, as they become available, for opportunities that might help schools advance their energy efficiency and renewable energy goals. We hope you find this information helpful.

cc: William Mayes, MASA  
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